

C4415 (3) Ringwood
HEALTH
A 31 AUG 56
C.F. 17

RURAL DISTRICT OF
RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE


Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Senior Sanitary Inspector
and Surveyor

FOR THE YEAR

1955.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30034942>

RURAL DISTRICT OF
RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1955.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE 1955

MR. H. S. BEALE (*Chairman*)
 MAJOR COLIN ZIEGLER, D.S.O., J.P., C.C.
 LT. COL. SIR GEORGE MEYRICK, BT., J.P., D.L.
 MR. A. V. ALEXANDER, J.P.
 MR. H. W. BROOKS.
 DR. A. W. BROWN.
 MR. H. CLEMENT BROWN.
 MR. W. C. CURRY, M.C.
 MR. W. J. DAVIES.
 MR. A. J. FRAMPTON.
 MRS. D. GRAHAM BROWN.
 MRS. H. POWYS GREENWOOD.
 MRS. A. T. MORLEY HEWITT.
 MR. J. W. KILCOYNE.
 MR. H. A. KING.
 MRS. C. MEESON.
 MR. G. C. L. PAYNE.
 MR. A. G. PIKE.
 MISS L. M. ROWLEY.
 MAJOR W. B. SHAKESPEAR.
 MR. J. W. SHUTLER.
 MR. V. C. SIMMONDS.
 MRS. R. M. WATSON.
 DR. A. T. WESTLAKE.
 MR. C. WHEELER.
 MR. H. F. WILSON.
 MR. H. S. WRIGHT.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health.

D. J. N. McNAB, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(also Medical Officer of Health of Borough of Christchurch and an
Assistant County Medical Officer for the County of Hampshire).

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

R. A. UPSTONE, Cert. R.S.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors.

W. W. DYSON, Cert. R.S.I.

C. A. KERSWILL, Cert. R.S.I.

RURAL DISTRICT OF RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year 1955

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE.

I submit for your information and consideration my ninth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your District.

Natural and Social Conditions :

The Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge forms a wide strip of territory along the Western border of Hampshire, bounded in the North by the chalk downs of Wiltshire, and on the South by the Boroughs of Christchurch and Bournemouth. It embraces the fertile valley of the River Avon.

The District contains sixteen parishes and has a rising population though the rate of increase has declined in the last few years.

Agriculture, with the emphasis on milk production, is the principal occupation, but there are large engineering and aircraft factories and a considerable amount of light industry. Vast quantities of gravel are dug from the Avon Valley deposits to feed the prosperous building industry, both within and without the District.

Unemployment is at a very low level.

RAINFALL FOR 1955 :

		<i>ins.</i>			<i>ins.</i>
January	..	3.69	July	..	1.98
February	..	1.98	August	..	0.54
March	..	0.93	September	..	1.65
April	..	0.43	October	..	4.72
May	..	4.07	November	..	3.39
June	..	3.54	December	..	5.95

TOTAL : 32.87 ins.

GENERAL STATISTICS :

AREA : 90,139 acres.

POPULATION: Registrar-General's estimate for mid-year 1955: 24,760.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES : 7502 (approx.).

RATEABLE VALUE : at 1.10.55 : £168,025.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE : £654. 13s. 2d.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1955 : (as supplied by the Registrar-General) :

LIVE BIRTHS :					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Total	..	..	..	..	333	173	160
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	317	163	154
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	16	10	6
STILL BIRTHS :							
Total	..	..	..	..	11	6	5
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	10	5	5
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	1	1	—
DEATHS :							
Total	..	..	..	..	377	173	204
INFANT MORTALITY :							
<i>(Deaths under 1 year of age)</i>							
Total	..	..	..	..	8	4	4
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	8	4	4
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
<i>(Deaths under 4 weeks of age)</i>							
Total	..	..	..	..	5	1	4
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	5	1	4
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
MATERNAL MORTALITY :							
Deaths from maternal causes					—	—	—

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS :

	<i>Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District.</i>	<i>England and Wales.</i>
BIRTH RATE : (Comparability Factor 1.13)		
per 1,000 estimated population ..	13.4	15.0
after application of comparability factor	15.2	—
STILL-BIRTH RATE :		
per 1,000 estimated population ..	0.44	0.35
per 1,000 total (live and still births).	31.9	23.1
DEATH RATE : (Comparability Factor 0.77)		
per 1,000 estimated population ..	15.2	11.7
after application of comparability factor	11.7	—

INFANT MORTALITY RATE :

(under one year of age)

All causes per 1,000 live births .. 24.0 24.9

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE :

(under 4 weeks of age)

All causes per 1,000 live births .. 15.0 17.3

ILLEGITIMACY RATE :

Per 1,000 live births 48.0 46.0

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE :

Per 1,000 total (live and still births) — 0.64

SPECIAL CAUSES :

Death Rate per 1,000 population :

Whooping Cough — 0.00

Diphtheria — 0.00

Influenza 0.04 0.07

Acute Poliomyelitis — 0.01

Pneumonia 0.48 0.51

Tuberculosis 0.04 0.15

Cancer (lung and bronchus) 0.36 0.39

(all causes) 2.38 2.06

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS :

(Since the District was formed in 1932)

Year	Popu- lation	Ringwood & Fordingbridge			England and Wales		
		I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.	I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.
1932	18,400	60	15.4	12.6	65	15.3	12
1936	18,640	48	13.3	13.1	59	14.8	12.1
1940	20,430	45	14.1	13.2	55	14.6	14.3
1944	19,520	25	16.2	12.6	46	17.6	11.6
1948	22,270	28	20.3	10.8	34	17.9	10.8
1949	22,590	16	18.6	12.6	32	16.7	11.7
1950	23,220	22	17.6	12.8	30	15.8	11.6
1951	23,970	12	17.3	12.5	29	15.5	12.5
1952	24,060	28	16.2	12.4	27	15.3	11.3
1953	24,720	34	16.6	14.5	27	15.5	11.4
1954	24,610	15	13.4	12.9	25	15.2	11.3
1955	24,760	24	13.4	15.2	24.9	15.0	11.7

CAUSES OF DEATH :

					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	—	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	..	..	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	1	1
4.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	..	..	..	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	—	—
8.	Measles	..	..	..	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..			—	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..		4	5
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..			7	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..		1	5
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..		—	—
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms				15	20
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	—	—
16.	Diabetes	..	..	..	1	3
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	..			27	51
18.	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	33	16
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..		3	5
20.	Other heart disease	..	..	..	29	39
21.	Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	8	11
22.	Influenza	..	..	..	1	—
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	4	8
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	4	4
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	..			4	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..			2	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..			1	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	2	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	4	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..		—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	..	..		—	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined disease	..			15	22
33.	Motor Vehicle accidents	..	..	..	4	—
34.	All other accidents	..	..	..	3	3
35.	Suicide	..	..	..	—	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	..			—	—
TOTAL (all causes) ..					173	204

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

The general incidence of infectious disease was at a satisfactorily low level throughout the year.

The normal biennial outbreak of Measles occurred with a total number of notifications rather less than in previous "Measles years." No deaths were recorded from this cause. The outbreak commenced later in the year than is usual and persisted until the late summer.

The number of cases of Pneumonia reported was the lowest since 1947.

The eight cases of Dysentery reported were from four separate incidents and represent three different types of infection. In one instance the infection was imported from abroad. Numerous contacts and associated convalescent carriers were investigated in connexion with each incident.

Poliomyelitis was widely prevalent throughout the country in 1955, the outbreak being the third largest ever to have occurred. We were accordingly singularly fortunate to have only two cases, both non-paralytic. Each made a complete and uneventful recovery.

<i>Notifications</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 population</i>	
		<i>Ringwood and Fordingbridge</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
Scarlet Fever	2	0.08	0.73
Whooping Cough	35	1.41	1.78
Diphtheria	—	—	0.00
Erysipelas	—	—	0.10
Measles	371	14.98	15.61
Pneumonia	18	0.73	0.63
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) ..	—	—	0.08
(Non-Paralytic) ..	2	0.08	0.06
Meningococcal infection ..	—	—	0.03
Food Poisoning	—	—	0.29
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	0.08	0.27
Dysentery	8	0.32	0.83
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0.04	0.04
Malaria (abroad)	1	—	—

IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH AND DIPHTHERIA :

The County Council introduced a scheme of combined immunisation against whooping cough and diphtheria towards the middle of the year, and the majority of primary immunisations carried out are now of this type. It had been hoped that the introduction of this scheme would stimulate public response since the mother of today has largely lost her fear of diphtheria, owing to the success of diphtheria immunisation. She is, however, fully conscious of the unpleasant and dangerous nature of whooping cough, particularly in the very young. It is perhaps too early yet to judge the results.

304 children were immunised against diphtheria for the first time, either alone or in combination with whooping cough. Of these, 241 were under five, and 63 over five. 370 children received boosting doses. These figures represent a small decrease on the figures for the previous year. Only 40% of children born within the previous twelve months were immunised.

The following table gives details of the state of immunisation in the area in so far as reliable records are held. Up to 1946 records were kept in a form which makes their inclusion impracticable.

IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION .

Number of children at 31st December, 1955, who had completed a course of immunisation against Diphtheria and/or Whooping Cough at any time between 1st January 1941 and 31st December, 1955.

AGE ON 31. 12. 55. (i.e. born in year)	Under 1 1955			1—4 1951—1954			5—9 1946—1950			10—14 1941—1945			Under 15 Total		
	Diph.	Comb.	Wh.C.	Diph.	Comb.	Wh.C.	Diph.	Comb.	Wh.C.	Diph.	Comb.	Wh.C.	Diph.	Comb.	Wh.C.
4. Number of children who have completed course (primary or booster) in the period 1951—1955.	3	25	—	491	360	4	1329	86	2	785	19	—	2608	490	6
B. Number of children who have completed course (primary or booster) in the period 1941—1950.	—	—	—	—	—	—	509	43	—	611	4	—	1120	47	—

TUBERCULOSIS :

The clinic facilities for the diagnosis and the home observation and treatment of tuberculous cases throughout the District are unchanged. Cases south of Fordingbridge come under the care of the Chest Physician at Christchurch and those in the northern part of the area under the Chest Physician at Salisbury. There is now no waiting list for admission to Sanatorium in this area.

The number of cases notified showed little change from the previous year.

The total number on the register at 31.12.55 was 218.

<i>Pulmonary.</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary.</i>	
<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female</i>
93	71	37	17

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1947-1955 :

NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary.</i>		<i>Pulmonary.</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary.</i>	
<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
1947	12	5	3	1	4	—	1
1948	13	5	3	2	3	—	—
1949	12	14	2	2	3	2	1
1950	17	17	8	2	4	1	—
1951	8	8	4	1	2	—	1
1952	11	13	3	—	—	—	1
1953	9	6	1	2	1	—	—
1954	9	5	2	1	4	—	—
1955	7	7	—	—	1	—	—

MASS RADIOGRAPHY :

No visit of the Mass Radiography Unit was made during the year.

AFTER CARE IN TUBERCULOSIS :

The Christchurch, Lymington and District T.B. Care Committee is a purely voluntary body which exists to provide, for tuberculous patients, help which is not available from statutory sources. The Committee is widely representative and derives its funds principally from the sale of N.A.P.T. Christmas Seals, but also from donations and collections. In addition there is a County grant of £100. During the past year over £350 was expended on 36 cases drawn from the area served by the Christchurch Chest Clinic, which includes that part of this District south of Fordingbridge. 12 of the cases helped came from this District. Most of the money was spent on extra nourishment, fuel and clothing. A great deal of very valuable social work is being done and much of this falls on the Chairman, Lady Manners, the Hon. Secretary, Major F. A. L. Lawrence and the Hon. Treasurer, Lt. Col. M. E. Morgan, to whom sincere tribute must be paid.

LABORATORY FACILITIES :

Constituent laboratories of the Public Health Laboratory Service are situated at Boscombe and at Salisbury. Bacteriological specimens of epidemiological interest from private practitioners, or from the Public Health Department, are examined free of charge and the Directors, Dr. G. J. G. King at Boscombe and Dr. M. S. Pereira at Salisbury, are available to give their valuable advice and guidance on epidemiological matters.

The following specimens emanating from this District during 1955 were examined at the Boscombe Laboratory.

Faeces	..	..	..	..	125
Other human	..	..	..	..	2
Water	..	..	..	..	45
Milk	..	..	..	..	50
Ice-cream	..	..	..	..	40
Other sanitary	..	..	..	..	8
					<hr/>
					270
					<hr/>

WATER SUPPLIES :

With the exception of one village the District is supplied with water from the mains of the West Hampshire Water Company, whose works are situated in the Borough of Christchurch. The Company draws its raw water from the Avon at Christchurch and treats it by slow sand filtration and, latterly, by superchlorination. The resultant water is of satisfactory purity and the supply is constant and adequate.

The Company is at present developing a new source of underground water, drawn from a 300 feet borehole in the grounds of Hale Park. This source will eventually supply a substantial part of this District. The water will be treated by chloramination and the installation at Hale will be fully automatic. An additional bore is contemplated.

Breamore remains the only large area not supplied with main water, but the arrangements to supply the area are at last agreed and work should commence soon. It is hoped that main water will be available by the end of 1956.

During the year 50 samples were taken from sources of supply other than the mains, 17 of these were found to be polluted.

The Water Company has again amended its records and the following list gives the number of premises, in parishes, supplied with main water, together with a number of converted war-time huts supplied through central meters.

<i>Parish</i>					<i>Dwellings supplied direct</i>	<i>Approximate population supplied</i>	
Martin					93		290
Rockbourne					92		287
Whitsbury					56		175
Breamore					—		—
Hale					134		418
Woodgreen					127		396
Damerham					105		327
Fordingbridge					1208 plus	2 huts	3775
Harbridge and Ibsley					115 „	64 „	558
Ellingham					114 „	10 „	387
St. Leonards and St. Ives					474		1379
Ringwood					2189		6830
Burley					452		1410
Hurn					29 plus	89 huts	368
Sopley					192 „	60 „	786
Christchurch East					828 „	112 „	2933

SEWAGE DISPOSAL :

No alteration has taken place during the year at the Ringwood Sewage Works. The ground remains incapable of absorbing the crude settled effluent at an economic rate and much of the area is more or less permanently flooded, with resultant objectional odours in warm weather. At times of heavy rainfall it is virtually impossible to confine the effluent to the irrigation area and adjacent watercourses have been polluted. The volume of fluid reaching the Works is now such that the provision of full treatment works is essential if nuisance is to be eliminated and the constant danger of pollution of the watercourses avoided.

The Fordingbridge Scheme has operated satisfactorily throughout the year. Some 500 properties in the town are now connected to it.

Difficulties in disposal of the effluent at the numerous small sewage disposal schemes on your isolated Council Estates are now so frequent as to be commonplace. Remedial measures are a constant source of further expenditure.

MILK AND DAIRIES :

Milk production in the area is supervised by officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Retail Distribution is supervised by officers of this Council. Pasteurisation plants are the responsibility of the County Council and on its behalf your officers supervise the one plant which exists in the District. Samples are sent regularly to the Laboratory to check the efficiency of the pasteurisation. The plant is efficient and is satisfactorily operated.

The following details of milk production in the District have been kindly supplied by Mr. D. C. Batchelor, Milk Regulations Officer of the Hampshire Agricultural Executive Committee.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>T.T.</i>	<i>Undesignated</i>	<i>Registered Producers</i>
Martin	9	2	11
Rockbourne	12	—	12
Whitsbury	6	—	6
Breamore	17	5	22
Hale	9	2	11
Woodgreen	3	—	3
Damerham	9	2	11
Fordingbridge	42	9	51
Harbridge and Ibsley ..	9	9	18
Ellingham	13	2	15
St. Leonards and St. Ives	7	3	10
Ringwood	27	6	33
Burley	5	3	8
Hurn	6	1	7
Sopley	18	11	29
Christchurch East	28	6	34
	<u>220</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>281</u>

The following table shows the milk production at the end of each year since 1949 when the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act 1944 came into force with its associated Regulations.

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Registered Producers	302	302	293	285	288	291	281
Holder of T.T.							
Licences	88	104	113	135	145	212	220
Holder of							
Accredited Licences	48	49	44	46	41	—	—

The continued rise in the number of holders of T.T. licences is gratifying. 78.3% of the producers in the area are now holders of T.T. licences.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES :

The Ringwood Slaughter House has been used throughout the year by a syndicate of local butchers. There has been a considerable reduction in the amount of slaughtering, particularly noticeable in the case of the large animals. The total of 3,344 killed is the smallest since 1951 when 32% of the killings were large animals. This year only 14% were large animals. This has meant that congestion in the slaughter house has been greatly relieved and conditions thereby improved. None the less, the premises still fall short of what is desirable in a modern slaughter house.

Killings at the small private slaughter house in Fordingbridge have been few and of small animals only.

MEAT INSPECTION :

Inspection of all carcasses is carried out by your inspectors at the slaughter houses. The reduction in killings has enabled most of the work to be done on three days a week and largely within normal working hours. The total of meat condemned, just under 4½ tons, is a little less than last year but is proportionately more. Tuberculosis remains the major cause of condemnation, over 1 ton 14cwt. being condemned from this cause alone.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED 1955.

	<i>Cattle excl. Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed	401	71	370	578	1924	—
Number inspected	401	71	370	578	1924	—
ALL DISEASE EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	1	—	4	—	11	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	138	48	—	43	82	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	34.7	67.6	1.1	7.4	4.8	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	2	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	28	6	—	—	31	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	7.5	9.8	—	—	1.6	—
CYSTICERCOSIS :						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	2	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ..	2	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condem- ned	—	—	—	—	—	—

SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS :

The County Council is the sampling authority and the following details of substances sampled within this area during the year ended 31st March, 1956, have been kindly supplied by the Chief Inspector, Mr. C. O. Perry.

<i>Article</i>	<i>Number Taken</i>
Butter and other fats	3
Drugs	1
Milk	85
Sausage, Meat and Fish Products	6
Spirits	6
Other foods	13
	<hr/>
	114
	<hr/>

All the samples proved to be genuine and the 85 samples of milk contained an average of 4.00% Milk Fat and 8.87% Non-fatty Solids.

FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES :

A substantial proportion of your Inspectors time is devoted to the routine inspection of food premises, such visits being appropriate occasions for instruction in the hygienic handling and care of food. The role of the inspector as a health educator is now recognised to be even more important than his function as an enforcer of legislation.

ICE CREAM :

Supervision and sampling of ice cream has continued on a scale similar to the last few years. A greater proportion of unsatisfactory samples has been reported than has been usual in recent years, but the numbers being small, in fact only five unsatisfactory samples were discovered. All such samples cause the closest observation to be made into the retailers technique and equipment.

There are now 101 retailers registered by this Council.

The following table shows the results of the Methylene Blue Test in this District since routine sampling commenced in 1947.

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of samples</i>	<i>Grade 1</i> SATISFACTORY	<i>Grade 2</i>	<i>Grade 3</i> UNSATISFACTORY	<i>Grade 4</i>
1947	26	30.8%	23.0%	30.8%	15.4%
1948	53	41.5%	24.5%	17.0%	17.0%
1949	196	53.1%	16.3%	15.8%	14.8%
1950	140	79.3%	10.7%	7.1%	2.9%
1951	116	92.2%	3.5%	2.6%	1.7%
1952	32	96.9%	3.1%	—	—
1953	53	86.8%	11.3%	—	1.9%
1954	37	83.8%	13.5%	2.7%	—
1955	40	70.0%	17.5%	10.0%	2.5%

FOOD POISONING :

No case of food poisoning was reported during the year.

SCHOOLS :

There is again no change of note to record in the state of the nineteen schools in the District. In only four schools is there waterborne sanitation, and this is increasingly a matter for complaint by parents who are new arrivals in districts where schools have bucket sanitation. Very many of the children now come from homes which have waterborne sanitation, notably our own new council houses and other new construction.

Urban schools remain overcrowded, though the new school under construction at Fordingbridge will in due course relieve the situation there. Further temporary classrooms are to be constructed at Ringwood Secondary School.

School meals are available at all schools. As stated in a previous report meals are in most cases eaten either in classrooms or in purpose built dining halls, which are also used as classrooms.

CHILD WELFARE CLINICS :

The County Council conducts five Child Welfare Centres, each being attended by an Assistant County Medical Officer and by the Health Visitor in whose area the Centre lies. The Centres are administered by voluntary committees of local ladies who maintain the records and manage the sale and distribution of welfare foods and medicaments. I wish to express our gratitude for the invaluable work of these local committees.

<i>Child Welfare Centre.</i>	<i>Place.</i>	<i>Time.</i>
Breamore	Woodgreen Hall	First Thursday in month at 2.30 p.m.
Fordingbridge	Victoria Rooms	First and Third Tuesday in month at 2.30 p.m.
Ringwood	Conway Hall	First and Third Wednesdays in month at 2.30 p.m.
Bransgore	Village Hall	Second and Fourth Fridays in month at 2.30 p.m.
Hurn	Village Hall	Second and Fourth Wednesdays in month at 2.30 p.m.

A further Centre is conducted at Burley by a local general practitioner, largely for the benefit of his own patients.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948, SECTION 47 :

No case was considered for action under the above section during the year.

“ GIPSY ” CAMPS :

There has been no real change in the conditions or in the numbers residing in the Camps at Millersford, Godshill and Hyde. There has been a reduction at Charford.

At Thorney Hill Compound however, where there were only four families at the end of 1954, there were nine families at the end of 1955. Three had moved from sites elsewhere and two had returned from Holmsley. Following a test case at Totton Magistrates Court, the Forestry Commission now considers it is unable to refuse camping licences to those who have previously held them, or who have been brought up in camps in the Forest. This rapid increase in the numbers, with the prospect of more to come, is most discouraging since at one time it had seemed that there was some prospect of eliminating the Thorney Hill Compound, largely through the efforts of this Council.

The families on the Compound, and in the other encampments tend in most cases to live in the familiar squalor and to be infested with roundworm.

HOUSING :

In spite of the very considerable amount of new housing construction, both private and council, the housing situation in the District remains serious. At the end of the year there were still 263 families living in hutted council accommodation, a reduction of 59 on the previous year's total. In addition the housing survey revealed some 400 houses likely to be suitable only for demolition. Of these it is proposed to demolish 65 in the next five years. 12 families were still in requisitioned premises.

No. on Housing Waiting List 31.12.55 ..	Approx. 509
No. of Council Houses completed in 1955 ..	72
No. of Private Houses completed in 1955 ..	189

Dwellings administered by the Council at 31.12.55.

Permanent Houses	796
Prefabs	50
Requisitioned houses (family units)	12
Huts (family units)	263

HURN AIRPORT :

The Airport continues to fulfil an essential function in accepting diversions when Airports in the London area are unusable, principally owing to fog. There was some increase in the arrivals of such aircraft over the record low total of 1954.

Emergency port health duties and the medical inspection of aliens were again carried out by Dr. W. D. Higson, Dr. C. Conyers Morrell, Dr. D. McIntyre and myself.

Extensive use of the Airport is made by aircraft manufacturers for testing purposes, and a considerable amount of flying training and ground control instruction is carried out. Internal scheduled and charter flights are increasing.

The following table shows the arrivals of diverted aircraft requiring the presence of a medical officer.

ARRIVALS, 1955.

<i>Month</i>	<i>No. of aircraft</i>	<i>No. of crew</i>	<i>No. of British Passengers</i>	<i>No. of Alien Passengers</i>
January	4	28	105	6
February	—	—	—	—
March	—	—	—	—
April	—	—	—	—
May	—	—	—	—
June	—	—	—	—
July	—	—	—	—
August	—	—	—	—
September	—	—	—	—
October	2	12	55	16
November	8	72	268	74
December	19	157	548	172
TOTAL	33	269	976	268

STATE OF EMPLOYMENT :

The following figures, showing the state of employment and unemployment in the area served by the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Employment Exchanges, have been kindly supplied by Mr E. J. Birden, the Manager of the Ringwood Employment Exchange. The area includes a small part of Dorset close to the Hampshire boundary but does not include the parishes of Hurn, Sopley and Christchurch East which are served by the Christchurch Employment Exchange.

1. *Unemployment.* The number of persons over 18 years of age, registered at Ringwood Employment Exchange and Fordingbridge

Sub-Office, during 1955, were :—

<i>Month</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Total</i>
January ..	49	26	75
February ..	50	24	74
March ..	40	24	64
April ..	43	18	61
May ..	39	8	47
June ..	47	9	56
July ..	36	6	42
August ..	39	7	46
September ..	35	13	48
October ..	42	10	52
November ..	47	18	65
December	39	11	50

2. Approximate percentage of male and female workers *over* 18 years of age and who were registered at the following times during 1955 :—

	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
January	1.4 %	1.8 %	) Based on 1954 insured population figures.
March	1.4 %	1.7 %	
June	1.3 %	0.5 %	) Based on 1955 insured population figures.
September	1.0 %	0.7 %	
December	1.1 %	0.6 %	

Note 1. The above percentage figures are for adults, a deduction having been made for insured workers under 18 years of age.

Note 2. The count of insured employees is made at the end of May each year, therefore percentages given for January and March are based on 1954 figures.

3. *Insured Population* (employees) : This statement has been prepared solely for the purpose of providing an approximate indication of the industrial structure of the area. The figures are not sufficiently precise to enable comparisons to be made in detail between consecutive years and no significance should be attached to relatively small changes.

<i>Industry or Service</i>	<i>Males aged 15 and over</i>	<i>Females aged 15 and over</i>	<i>Total Males & Females 15 and over</i>
BASIC INDUSTRIES			
Agriculture, horticulture and forestry ..	1039	153	1192
Sand and gravel quarrying	96	1	97
Gas supply	14	1	15
Transport and communications ..	189	38	227
TOTALS	1338	193	1531

<i>Industry or Service</i>	<i>Males aged 15 and over</i>	<i>Females aged 15 and over</i>	<i>Total Males and Females 15 and over</i>
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES			
Non-metalliferous mining products ..	51	2	53
Engineering	582	70	652
Manufacture & repair of vehicles (including garaging)	162	15	177
Food industries	37	26	63
Wood industries	80	7	87
Other Manufacturing industries (paint, metal goods, precision instruments, printing and publishing, etc.)	59	33	92
TOTALS	971	153	1124
SERVICES			
Building, civil engineering and electrical contracting	510	15	525
Distributive trades	293	313	606
Banking, insurance and finance	62	25	87
National and local government	169	12	181
Professional services	110	342	452
Hotel and catering trades	33	187	220
Domestic service (resident and non- resident)	132	496	628
Other miscellaneous services	89	104	193
TOTALS	1398	1494	2892
GRAND TOTAL	3707	1840	5547

GENERAL REMARKS :

The general health of the District has been satisfactory.

Apart from the normal biennial wave of Measles the incidence of infectious disease was very low.

The estimated population showed an increase of 150. After last year's fall in population, this gives an increase of only 40 since 1953.

The Birth Rate was again low, the figure being the same as last year which was the lowest since 1938.

The Infant Mortality Rate showed a moderate increase.

The Death Rate increased and was the highest recorded since the District was formed. In part, this is accounted for by deaths in institutions of long stay patients, many of whom have their original homes outside this District.

Conditions at the Ringwood sewage disposal works call for early action.

Much remains to be done in housing.

In conclusion, I would again thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their interest and encouragement, the Clerk for his advice and guidance, and the Senior Sanitary Inspector and his staff for their loyal co-operation throughout the year.

D. J. N. McNAB,

Medical Officer of Health

June, 1956.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1955 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE.

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	23	13	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	124	96	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	147	109	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND : NIL.

Part VIII of the Act.

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out- workers in Aug. list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of pro- secutions for failure to supply lists	No. of in- stances of work in un- wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecu- tions
Wearing apparel (Making, etc.)	46					

RURAL DISTRICT OF
RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Senior Sanitary Inspector
and Surveyor

FOR THE YEAR

1955.

Public Offices,

Ringwood,

June, 1956

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report as your Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor dealing with work carried out by my Department during the year 1955.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

Housing Acts	..	..	..	..	..	44
Dangerous Buildings	..	..	..	..	..	7
Moveable Dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	132
Gipsy Camps	..	..	..	..	..	36
Nuisances and Complaints	..	..	..	..	..	229
Water Supplies	..	..	..	..	..	165
Meat and Other Foods	..	..	..	..	..	580
Knacker's Yard	..	..	..	..	..	14
Food and Drugs Act	..	..	..	..	..	391
Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	..	25
Ice Cream	..	..	..	..	..	66
Milk and Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	52
Watercress Beds	..	..	..	..	..	6
Shops Act	..	..	..	..	..	20
Factories Act	..	..	..	..	..	109
Notifiable Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	18
Food Poisoning	..	..	..	..	..	6
Rodent Control	..	..	..	..	..	3494
Ringwood Sewerage	..	..	..	..	..	213
Fordingbridge Sewerage	..	..	..	..	..	172
Public Cleansing	..	..	..	..	..	111
Other Services administered by the Council	..	..	..	..	..	221
Petroleum and Carbide	..	..	..	..	..	102
Building Byelaws	..	..	..	..	..	2848
Town and Country Planning	..	..	..	..	..	226
Estates Maintenance	..	..	..	..	..	3307
Small Dwellings (Acquisition) Acts	..	..	..	..	..	112
Housing (Financial Provisions) Act	..	..	..	..	..	6
Unclassifiable Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	79
Total visits and inspections	..	..	..	..	..	12791

HOUSING

SLUM CLEARANCE.

A sub-committee was appointed to formulate a programme for dealing with houses unfit for human habitation and liable to demolition and to agree the period necessary for securing their demolition and the number to be demolished within the first five years.

It was considered that a detailed survey of the district was unnecessary having regard to the comprehensive survey of housing conditions carried out in accordance with instructions issued by the Ministry of Health in 1944. The survey in this district was confined to houses with a net rateable value not exceeding £20 and a total of 5346 houses were dealt with including 523 huts ; houses were examined in relation to matters prescribed in the Housing Acts and Regulations and classified as follows :—

<i>Category</i>	<i>Condition of dwelling</i>	<i>No. of houses</i>	<i>No. of huts</i>
1	Satisfactory in all respects	1181	
2	Minor defects	875	
3	Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement . .	2227	
4	Appropriate for reconditioning under Housing (Rural Workers) Acts	26	
5	Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense . .	514	523

The Housing Committee's recommendations based on the report of the sub-committee were subsequently adopted by the Council and were as follows :—

1. Estimated number of houses (excluding huts) unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Rent and Repairs Act, 1954 and suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936. 400
2. Period necessary for securing the demolition or reconditioning of all these houses 15 years
3. Number of houses to be included in Clearance Areas (Section 25) and demolished within 5 years 15
4. Number of houses to be dealt with as individual unfit houses (Section 11) and demolished within 5 years 50
5. That if sufficient house allocations are made by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and land is available, a total of 85 houses be erected annually, for the next five years, 75 for alleviating the ordinary housing shortage and 10 for persons displaced as a result of demolition or slum clearance action.

HOUSING ACT INSPECTIONS

Detailed inspections of unfit houses were commenced during the year and reports made to the Housing Committee in respect of 15 houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at a reasonable expense of being made fit. Demolition Orders were made in respect of 8 cottages.

The following summary relates to the demolition, closing and repair of houses under the Housing and Public Health Acts during the year :-

A.	Houses demolished	
	As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11 Housing Act, 1936	5
B.	Unfit houses closed	
	Under Section 11 Housing Act, 1936	1
C.	Unfit houses made fit	
	Informal action	24
	Formal action—Public Health Acts	2
	Formal action—Housing Act, 1936 ..	1

IMPROVEMENTS AND CONVERSIONS

During the year 81 preliminary enquiries were received. 37 formal applications were approved in respect of 44 units of accommodation ; all were improvements of existing dwellings with the exception of one conversion of stabling to provide dwelling accommodation. The value of the grants made was £10,740.

It is interesting to note that the grants made by the Council for the five years ending 31st December, 1955 amounted to £18,890 ; of which £594 was in respect of the three years 1951 to 1953.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

No. of licensed moveable dwelling sites on register	76
No. of licensed moveable dwellings (other than sites on register)	2
No. of inspections made	132
Applications for licences received during the year	33

GIPSY CAMPS.

A number of small gipsy encampments exist in the district ; one at Thorneyhill is on Forestry Commission land.

The Shack Dwellers Committee set up in November, 1952 remains active in its efforts to solve the problem of providing improved accommodation for gipsies and shack dwellers. A large number of these families are now in Council huts at Holmsley and Ibsley.

COMPLAINTS.

87 complaints were received during the year involving a total of 229 visits and inspections - details are as follows :—

<i>Nature of Nuisance</i>	<i>Complaints received</i>	<i>Number of visits</i>
Insanitary conditions	26	21
Unsatisfactory and insufficient water supplies	2	20
Dust, effluvia or smoke	2	2
Flea or fly infestations	2	22
Offensive smells	5	12
Offensive accumulations	5	13
Cesspools and drains	19	79
Milk and Dairies	1	3
Rats and Mice	14	11
Animals	5	14
Miscellaneous	6	32
	<hr/> 87	<hr/> 229

WATER SUPPLIES

Number of visits and inspections made (excluding visits following complaints)	52
Number of samples collected	50
Number of samples unsatisfactory	17

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The Ringwood Slaughter House remains under the control and operation of the local Butchers' Association. There is one other licensed slaughter house in the district used only infrequently by the butcher owning it.

MINISTRY OF FOOD FATSTOCK GUARANTEE SCHEME.

DEADWEIGHT CERTIFICATION OF PIGS.

The Ministry of Food continues to use the Ringwood Slaughter House as a Deadweight Certification Centre with the Council's Meat Inspectors acting as Certifying Officers.

During the year 445 certificates were issued in respect of 1289 pigs.

ANIMAL CARCASSES.

Routine inspections of all animals slaughtered were continued throughout the year involving the detailed examination of all carcasses and offal. 527 visits were made for this purpose.

The total number of carcasses inspected at the Slaughter House was 3344 made up as follows :-

Cattle excluding cows	..	..	401
Cows	..	..	71
Calves	..	..	370
Sheep and lambs	..	..	578
Pigs	..	..	1924
			<hr/>
			3344

As a result of these examinations 9,962 lbs. of meat were condemned as unfit for human consumption ; diseases and weight are :-

<i>Disease or condition</i>					<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	3819
Distomatosis	..	..	..	..	2004
Gangrenous Mastitis			..	..	680
Abscess	..	..	..	..	631
Lymph Leukaemia			..	..	426
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	423
Acute Swine Erysipelas			..	..	313
Septic Mastitis		..	..	..	312
Septic Omphalophlebitis			..	..	165
Telangiectasis		..	..	..	134
Ascaris Lumbricoides			..	..	126
Moribund	..	..	..	..	120
Actinomycosis		..	..	..	102
Icterus	..	..	..	..	85
Peritonitis	..	..	..	..	80
Fevered	..	..	..	..	78
Arthritis	..	..	..	..	74
Bruising	..	..	..	..	71
C. Bovis	..	..	..	..	69
Hydatid Cyst		..	..	..	68
Hydronephrosis		..	..	..	44
Pericarditis	..	..	..	..	34
Immaturity	..	..	..	..	26
Actinobacillosis		..	..	..	25
Nephritis	..	..	..	..	20
Fracture	..	..	..	..	14
Cirrhosis	..	..	..	..	11
Pleurisy	..	..	..	..	8
					<hr/>
					9962

The following summary shows the total number of carcasses inspected and the amounts of meat condemned during the previous eight years.

	<i>No. of carcasses</i>			<i>Condemned Meat (lbs.)</i>	
1954	4811	..	10,254
1953	4385	..	21,452
1952	4166	..	25,458
1951	3232	..	35,911
1950	3714	..	50,307
1949	3820	..	33,227
1948	2156	..	19,218
1947	2917	..	20,992

OTHER FOODS.

53 visits were made in connection with the examination of foodstuffs at food shops and stores, the quantities found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered were as follows :-

Beef	..	..	..	..	269 tins
Beef	..	..	..	..	140 lbs.
Mutton	..	..	..	..	4 tins
Pork	..	..	..	..	34 tins
Pork	..	..	..	..	147 lbs.
Sausages	..	..	..	..	25 lbs.
Pork Pies	..	..	..	..	2 dozen
Chicken	..	..	..	..	1 tin
Milk	..	..	..	..	124 tins
Cream	..	..	..	..	3 tins
Fish	..	..	..	..	156 lbs.
Fish	..	..	..	..	3 tins
Cheese	..	..	..	..	2½ cwts
Pearl Barley	..	..	..	..	14 lbs.
Candied Peel	..	..	..	..	28 lbs.
Fruit	..	..	..	..	61 tins
Vegetables	..	..	..	..	24 tins
Peas	..	..	..	..	2 lbs.
Jam	..	..	..	..	8 tins

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS.

Under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, and the Amendment Act, 1954, 14 licences were issued to slaughtermen. Two slaughter house licences were renewed and one knacker's yard licence.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

The Food and Drugs Act, 1955 came into operation on 1st Jan. 1956 and consolidates the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950 and certain

sections of the Slaughterhouses Act 1954 and of the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 also came into operation on the 1st January, 1956 but certain provisions involving alterations to premises or equipment and substantial changes in existing practices are deferred until the 1st July, 1956.

The Regulations modify and extend the hygiene requirements in Section 13 of the 1938 Act (Repealed). This section applied to premises, yards and forecourts, but the Regulations include a number of provisions affecting stalls and vehicles, and also certain general requirements that apply wherever food is handled. Furthermore, whereas Section 13 relates to sales, actual or intended, the Regulations apply whether or not there is any question of sale. They apply to the supply of food in the course of a business, which is defined so as to include canteens, clubs, schools and other institutions as well as undertakings carried on by public and local authorities (Regulations 2 and 3).

The principal extensions of the previous law relate to —

- (i) specific requirements designed to prevent the contamination of food (e.g. Regulations 8 and 9) ;
- (ii) provision of sinks or other facilities for washing food and equipment (Regulation 19) ;
- (iii) the provision of a constant supply of hot water for sinks, wash basins, etc., in food premises and of a supply of hot water on stalls and vehicles (Regulations 15, 16, 19 and 28) ;
- (iv) restrictions on the preparation and packing of food in or about domestic premises (Regulation 7) ;
- (v) the conditions under which certain foods that provide a particularly favourable medium for food poisoning organisms are to be kept in food premises (Regulation 25) ;
- (vi) a requirement to provide vehicles used for the transport of meat with duckboards and separate receptacles for offal, and, where the vehicles are not enclosed, a covering supported by a frame or poles (Regulation 29) ;
- (vii) The circumstances in which persons carrying meat are required to wear overalls and head coverings (Regulation 30).

In a circular accompanying the new regulations the Minister states “ Food Hygiene is recognised in the food and catering industries as sound commercial practice serving their own business interests as well as the public health, and the Minister is confident that local authorities will find that in applying these Regulations they have the support of the food and catering industries. Statutory Regulations by themselves can never achieve the reduction in food-borne disease that everyone hopes to see. The application of the Regulations will need continual supplementing with publicity and education in order that food-handlers and the public may always

have before them the importance of good food hygiene practice.”

417 inspections were made in connection with food premises as follows :-

	<i>No. on Register</i>	<i>Inspections</i>
Food Shops	155	183
Bakehouses	16	33
Restaurant Kitchens ..	42	53
Ice Cream Premises ..	101	26
Preserved Food Premises ..	19	61
Market Stalls		48
General		13
		<hr/> 417

LICENSED PREMISES.

25 inspections of licensed premises were made during the year, particular regard being paid to sanitary accommodation and rooms used for the preparation of food.

ICE CREAM.

40 samples of Ice Cream were collected during the year for bacteriological examination and Methylene Blue Test involving 40 visits. The samples were graded by the Bacteriologist as follows :

Grade 1	28
Grade 2	7
Grade 3	4
Grade 4	1
	<hr/> 40

Under the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 to 1952, no bacteriological standards are officially laid down for Ice Cream as there is no known test sufficiently reliable for use as a statutory test of its contamination with non-pathogenic organisms.

The Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1951 prescribes that ice cream shall contain not less than 5 per cent fat, 10 per cent sugar and $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent milk solids other than fat.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Number of Registered Distributors ..	12
New registrations made during the year ..	1
Inspections made	52
Samples of milk collected	42

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS 1949 and 1950.

7 Dealers licences authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" were issued during the year.

2 supplementary licences were issued in respect of "Tuberculin" and "Pasteurised" milk.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS 1949-1953.

The Council exercise the functions of the County Council respecting the issue of licenses in respect of pasteurising and sterilising establishments.

There is one pasteurising establishment in the district licensed to retail Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Milk (Pasteurised).

6 Dealers licences authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" were issued during the year.

SHOPS ACT.

Number on register..	..	..	..	273
Inspections made ..	..	..	..	20

The District Council is responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950 relating to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences.

6 Certificates of exemption respecting sanitary accommodation were issued under Section 38.

FACTORIES ACT.

This Council is responsible for enforcing the provisions relating to sanitary conveniences in all factories and the provisions dealing with cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors in those factories not using mechanical power.

Number on Register ..	..	..	..	147
Inspections made ..	..	..	..	109

SCRAP METAL MERCHANTS.

Two dealers are registered under Section 86 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Inspections made ..	..	..	..	18
Premises disinfected ..	..	..	..	2
Inspections made in connection with food poisoning ..	..	..	..	6

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council is responsible for enforcing the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 and Regulations made thereunder, and is required to take such steps as may be necessary to secure as far as practicable that the district is free from rats and mice.

One rodent operative is employed.

The scheme operated by the Council ensures that the statutory duties of inspection and enforcement are adequately discharged and provides a satisfactory measure of control on properties. Lands and buildings throughout the district are inspected and occupiers of infested property are requested to take steps to exterminate rodents. Advice is given on method of control and occupiers of domestic buildings are offered ready mixed bait, consisting of Warfarin and medium grade oatmeal, free of charge. In the case of agricultural lands and buildings and business premises, a charge of 2s. per lb. is made. Infested premises are re-visited and in the majority of cases it is found that infestation has been cleared. Once the simple and effective method of Warfarin control has been proved, occupiers will, in the event of re-infestation occurring, readily co-operate by reporting and requesting further supplies of poison.

The following summary shews the work carried out by the Council for the 12 months ending 31st March, 1955. A total of 3494 visits and inspections were made.

	<i>Type of Property</i>		
	Dwelling houses	All other inc. Business premises	Agri- cultural premises
No. of properties in the district	6703	1164	799
No. of properties inspected as a result of			
(a) Notification	105	25	19
(b) Survey under the Act	2705	228	295
No. of inspections made by Rodent Operative - including reinspections	2890	273	331
No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by			
(a) Rats Major	—	2	7
Minor	515	37	153
(b) Mice Major	—	—	—
Minor	79	20	122

Several meetings of the Workable Area Committee under the Chairmanship of Councillor H. Wright were held for the discussion of rodent control problems and methods of co-operation between neighbouring authorities. The area covered by the Committee

consists of the districts of Bournemouth County Borough, Christchurch Borough, Lymington Borough, New Forest Rural District Council and Ringwood & Fordingbridge Rural District.

The Committee was impressed with this Council's efficient and economical scheme and circulated full details of it to the other authorities in the area.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

There are no premises in the district licensed under this Act for the sale of pets but two licences were issued to applicants outside the district for the sale of pets from stalls at Ringwood Market.

SERVICES ADMINISTERED BY COUNCIL.

<i>Service</i>					<i>Visits made</i>
Refuse collection and disposal	..	..	..	..	111
Ringwood Sewerage	..	..	..	..	213
Fordingbridge Sewerage	..	..	..	..	172
Public Conveniences	..	..	..	..	127
Cattle Pound	..	..	..	..	7
Car Parks	..	..	..	..	16
Ditching	..	..	..	..	31
Street Name Plates	..	..	..	..	17
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	23
					<hr/> 717

SEWERAGE.

RINGWOOD SEWERAGE.

The work of disposing of sewage by land irrigation becomes increasingly difficult. During times of exceptional heavy or prolonged rainfall, the flow of effluent on the land increases to such an extent that it becomes uncontrollable.

A sub-committee of the Public Health Committee inspected agricultural land to the west of the present disposal works with a view to possible extensions. With a dry weather flow of some 140,000 gallons it appears inadvisable to incur further expenditure on land irrigation and the scheme of modernising the works and constructing percolating filter beds should be proceeded with.

The contractor responsible for working and preparing the land used for irrigation frequently failed to carry out instructions and his services were accordingly terminated and a new contractor (a local market gardener) appointed.

Repairs to the three known major leaks were successfully carried out including the laying of a new length of sewer at Duck Island Lane to bypass the defective section resulting in a reduction in the dry weather flow of some 25,000 gallons per 24 hours.

During the year 36 premises were connected to the sewers including 22 Council houses ; the total number of premises connected to the sewers at the end of the year was 1364 including 342 Council houses.

In the course of a severe thunderstorm on the 13th July, a control panel coil and two ammeters were burnt out at the Moor-town Pumping Station.

FORDINGBRIDGE SEWERAGE.

The sewers and disposal works have been efficiently maintained.

During the year 200 premises were connected to the sewers making a total at the 31st December of 500 including 188 Council Houses ; the recorded dry weather flow averaged 40,000 gallons per 24 hours.

The effluent discharges into the River Avon and samples are collected regularly for chemical analysis. A most satisfactory effluent is being produced.

IBSLEY SEWERAGE.

The Sewage Disposal Works have been well maintained ; the effluent discharges into the River Avon and is regularly analysed. It has at all times exceeded the standard of purity laid down by the Royal Commission.

Some electrical breakdowns occurred resulting in the pumps being temporarily out of use.

PUBLIC HEALTH (DRAINAGE OF TRADE PREMISES) ACT, 1937.

The newly constructed Chrome Plating Plant at Wellworthy's Premises, Ringwood came into operation at the end of the year and frequent samples of the effluent have revealed that this complies with the stringent standards imposed by the Council including chromate and sulphate content.

NIGHTSOIL COLLECTIONS.

The contract with the Cleansing Service (Southern Counties) Ltd., for bi-weekly collections of nightsoil in the lighting area of Fordingbridge terminated on the 30th June, 1955.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The Council undertakes a combined collection of household and unburnable refuse weekly in the lighting areas of Ringwood and Fordingbridge. A collection of unburnable refuse only is carried out monthly in the remainder of the district. Receptacles have to be placed outside the premises as near as practicable to the roadway along which the collection vehicle proceeds.

The new Shelvoke & Drewry Fore and Aft Tipping Freighter was put into service in August and with its carrying capacity of 16-18 cubic yards compared with the normal freighter capacity of 8-10 cubic yards has already proved invaluable in dealing with the increased amount of refuse. The 15 year old Shelvoke & Drewry Freighter which it replaces is being kept in reserve for emergency use.

The four refuse collection vehicles covered a total mileage of 21,304 miles during the year.

The following summary shows the estimated amount of refuse collected throughout the district during the past seven years :-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Ashley Dump</i>	<i>Verwood Road Dump</i>	<i>Sandleheath Dump</i>	<i>Total</i>
1955		10,467 cu. yds.	4,355 cu. yds.	14,822 cu. yds.
1954		9,697 „ „	4,127 „ „	13,824 „ „
1953		8,946 „ „	3,819 „ „	12,765 „ „
1952	6,307 cu. yds.	3,900 „ „	3,127 „ „	9,824 „ „
1951	7,413 „ „		3,272 „ „	10,685 „ „
1950	6,008 „ „		2,857 „ „	8,865 „ „
1949	4625 „ „		2,282 „ „	6,907 „ „

It is interesting to note the steady increase in the amount of refuse collected. The new freighter has enabled us to cope with the work of collection and disposal of the additional 1,000 cu. yds. without alterations in the service and with no increase in manpower but vehicles and labour are working to maximum capacity.

At one period four refuse collectors were absent owing to illness and collection services could only be maintained by using men normally employed at sewage works and on road sweeping.

The labour position continued difficult and numerous workmen were engaged during the year, some left within a week or so and those who stayed long enough for a trial were subsequently discharged !

The following Schedule showing collection days is produced for the information of Councillors :-

WEEKLY SERVICE.

Lighting Area of the Parish of Ringwood.

Addison Square, Bickerley, Carvers Lane, Christchurch Road, The Close, College Road, Collins Lane, Coniston Road, Coxstone Lane, Deweys Lane, Duck Island, Fridays Cross, Hightown Road from Christchurch Road to Parsonage Barn Lane, Kings Arms Lane, Kingsbury Lane, Lynes Lane, Market Place, Meeting House Lane, Middle Lane, Mount Pleasant, New Street, Northumberland Court, Nursery Road, Quomp, Riverside, School Lane, Star Lane, Strides Lane, Southampton Road from Fridays Cross to Mount Pleasant, Southfield, Top Lane, West Street, Woodstock Lane.	}	Every Monday
--	---	-----------------

Beechcroft Lane, Broadshard Lane, Cadogan Road, Cloughs Road, Eastfield Lane, East View Road, Fairlie Park, Fairlie Estate, Gipsy Lane, Gravel Lane, Highfield Road, Hightown Road from Parsonage Barn Lane to Eastfield Lane, Hiltom Road, Hurst Corner, Hurst Road, Manor Road, Meadow Road, Merryweather Estate, Middleton Road, Morant Road, Northfield Road, North Poulner Road, Parsonage Barn Lane, Queens Way, Salisbury Road, Seymour Road, Southampton Road from Mount Pleasant to Eastfield Lane, Wessex Estate, Wessex Road, Westbury Road, Winston Way.

Every
Tuesday

Lighting Area of the Parish of Fordingbridge.

Albion Road, Alexandra Road, Ashford Road, Back Street, The Bartons, Bowerwood Road, Bridge Street, Church Street, Green Lane, High Street, Horseport, Jubilee Close, Jubilee Road, Lower Bartons, Market Place, Mud Lane, Park Road, Pennys Lane, Picket Close, Provost Street, Roundhill, Salisbury Road, Salisbury Street, Shaftesbury Street, Station Road, St. George's Road, The Square, Victoria Road, Waverley Road, Whitsbury Road.

Every
Wednesday

MONTHLY SERVICE.

<i>The whole of the parishes of</i>	<i>in every month</i>
Martin, Rockbourne and Whitsbury	Second Thursday
Woodgreen and Hale	Second Thursday
St. Leonards and St. Ives	First Thursday
Ellingham (including the areas of Blashford, Rockford, Highwood, Linwood, Linford and Shobley)	Third Thursday
Harbridge and Ibsley (including the areas of South Gorley, Furzehill, Mockbeggar, Ibsley, Harbridge Green, Bleak Hill and Turner)	Third Thursday
Ringwood (Non-Lighting Area) (including the areas of North Poulner, Hangersley, Hightown, Crow, Crow Hill, Moortown, Kingston, Sandford and Bisterne)	Fourth Thursday
Damerham and Breamore	First Friday
Fordingbridge (Non-Lighting Area) (including the areas of Burgate, Sandleheath, Bickton, North Gorley, Ogdens, Hungerford, Hyde, Frogham, Stuckton, Blissford and Godshill)	Second Friday
Sopley (including the area of Avon, Ripley and Shirley)	First Friday
Hurn (including the areas of Parley Green and East Parley)	First Friday
Christchurch East (including the areas of Winkton, Burton, Bransgore, Neacroft, Thorneyhill and Hinton)	Third Friday
Burley (including the area of Burley Street)	Fourth Friday

STREET CLEANSING.

The cleansing of streets in the shopping centres of Ringwood and Fordingbridge has been satisfactorily maintained.

A sub-committee of the Public Health and General purposes Committee was set up in December to consider a comprehensive street cleansing scheme and as a result of its recommendations the Council subsequently entered into an agreement with the County Council whereby this Council would carry out street cleaning of certain publicly repairable roads amounting to about $11\frac{1}{2}$ miles in Ringwood and $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles in Fordingbridge at an approximate annual

cost of £1,200 ; the County Council's share of the cost to be based on the Ministry of Transport's formula, viz :-

50 per cent of the first £150 per mile of expenditure

40 per cent of the next £100 „ „ „

30 per cent of expenditure above £250 per mile

The County Council's contribution will probably amount to £500.

This scheme effects an economy for both authorities and ensures a greater degree of efficiency ; it will operate as from the 1st April, 1956.

LITTER RECEPTACLES.

8 receptacles in Ringwood Shopping centre and 6 in Fordingbridge are provided and maintained by the Council.

COUNCIL DEPOT.

The first stage in the provision of a proper depot was completed during the year when a large three bay garage was erected with new access road from the Bickerley. A 1,000 gallon diesel fuel storage tank and pump was provided for the new freighter.

DITCHING.

The condition of the Town Ditches in Ringwood and Fordingbridge was the cause of some complaints and the Council agreed to clean them out at a cost of £13 and £95 respectively.

Regular flushing and cleaning of the Alderholt Road Ditch continued throughout the year.

The Council also cleaned out for the first time and without prejudice the ditch along the north and west boundaries of the Ringwood Sewage Works to its termination at Blackford Pond.

SALVAGE.

The salvage scheme was successfully maintained throughout the year and sales produced £1279. 13s. 4d. Salvage is collected with the refuse and no additional labour is employed.

The incentive bonus scheme for the workmen was put into operation on the 1st January whereby a bonus of 5 per cent is paid on gross annual sales up to £600 and 10 per cent over that amount. The total sum paid to the workmen for the year amounted to £98. and it will be observed that revenue from salvage for this period exceeded the previous year's sales by £600.

Details of salvage sales are shewn in the following summary :-

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>No.</i>	£	s.	d.
Waste paper ..	140	11	2			995	16	9
Textiles ..	3	17	3			99	4	6
Ferrous ..	16	3	2			145	7	10½
Non Ferrous ..	1	7	5	24		33	9	11½
Batteries ..		2			2	5	12	0
Jam Jars ..					36		2	3
	162	3	0	24	38	1279	13	4

Salvage sales for the previous years are shewn below :-

	£
1941	414
1942	1208
1943	1089
1944	908
1945	574
1946	495
1947	342
1948	949
1949	740
1950	608
1951	1674
1952	937
1953	572
1954	669
1955	1280

The increases in prices of salvage obtainable from merchants in 1954 continued into 1955 but at the end of the year prices were only about half those obtaining in 1951.

Baled waste paper	Dec. 1951	£16. 0s. per ton
	Dec. 1952	5. 10s. per ton
	Dec. 1953	4. 10s. per ton
	Dec. 1954	6. 0s. per ton
	Dec. 1955	8. 0s. per ton
Unbaled waste paper	Dec. 1951	£13. 0s. per ton
	Dec. 1952	3. 0s. per ton
	Dec. 1953	1. 10s. per ton
	Dec. 1954	3. 10s. per ton
	Dec. 1955	5. 0s. per ton
Books and Magazines	Dec. 1951	£16. 15s. per ton
	Dec. 1952	6. 0s. per ton
	Dec. 1953	3. 10s. per ton
	Dec. 1954	6. 0s. per ton
	Dec. 1955	7. 10s. per ton
Newspaper	Dec. 1951	£18. 5s. per ton
	Dec. 1952	6. 10s. per ton
	Dec. 1953	3. 10s. per ton
	Dec. 1954	6. 0s. per ton
	Dec. 1955	8. 0s. per ton

CAR PARKS.

The surfaced area of the Ringwood Park provides accommodation for about 100 cars and the Fordingbridge Park accommodates between 70 and 80.

CATTLE POUND.

The Police impounded a total of 101 animals in the Ringwood Pound during the year compared with 53 during 1954.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The conveniences at Ringwood have been maintained as cleanly as possible but defacing of interior walls continues and glazed tiles would appear to be the only permanent solution to this problem.

The Council contributes towards the cost of maintaining conveniences for use by the public at The Lamb Inn, Ringwood, The Greyhound Hotel and the New Inn, Fordingbridge.

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM SPIRIT, PETROLEUM MIXTURES AND CARBIDE OF CALCIUM.

Number of premises on register ..	96
Inspections made	102

The Council is responsible for seeing that Petroleum Spirit, Mixtures etc., are stored in accordance with the provisions of the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928, the Petroleum Spirit (Motor Vehicles etc.) Regulations, 1929 and the Petroleum (Mixtures) Order, 1929.

Cellulose solutions, Dope and Thinners are "Inflammable liquids" under the Cellulose Solutions Regulations, 1934 and may also be a "mixture of petroleum" if the solution has a flash point of 73 deg. F. or under. Premises where these solutions are stored must also comply with Section 34 (13)(d) of the Factories Act, 1937 relating to means of escape in case of fire.

BUILDING BYELAWS.

PLANS

Number of plans received	623
Number of plans approved	590
Number of plans rejected	32
Number of plans no objection ..	1

The classification of the approved plans is as follows :—

210 plans in respect of 389 dwellings
121 plans in respect of structural alterations and additions
114 plans in respect of 120 garages
88 plans in respect of drainage works
49 plans in respect of agricultural buildings
8 plans in respect of conversions

Inspections - Foundations	351
Damp proof courses	463
Water tests applied to drains	555
Completed works	383
Sewer connections	58
Miscellaneous inspections ..	1038
Contraventions - Contraventions of Building Byelaws	55
Number of informal notices served	33

The new Building Byelaws came into operation on the 1st January, 1955 and in conjunction with numerous British Standards Specifications and Codes of Practice form a somewhat complex method of building control based on current knowledge of building technique and materials.

The Building Byelaws Committee was greatly concerned with drainage problems arising on a private estate at the Southern end of the district where the Town and Country Planning Committee had approved development for some 94 plots. No sewers are available and a high water table necessitates water-tight cesspools in many instances. The Byelaws Committee had no alternative but to approve these systems although realising that with the high density of development allowed public health nuisances could not fail to occur.

Later in the year Planning consent was given for an estate of some 120 dwellings on heathland near Ringwood and in the absence of sewerage facilities drainage will consist of individual cesspools or septic tanks.

NEW STREET BYELAWS.

5 plans were received for works of laying out new streets. It is regrettable that the standards regarding widths of carriageways and footways vary widely from those of the Planning Authority. The Building Byelaws Committee is making every endeavour to get this unsatisfactory state of affairs rectified.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING.

Development applications are dealt with by my department together with the detailed work of maintaining the Planning Register and Planning Index Maps. Much time is occupied in interviewing callers and advising on planning matters generally as the majority of enquirers expect to obtain relevant information and advice at these offices and are unable to visit the Area Planning Office at Lyndhurst.

Inspections in the district are made on behalf of the Planning Authority and reports furnished on contraventions etc.

During the year 226 visits and inspections were made.

ESTATE MAINTENANCE.

At the 31st December, 1955 the Council had a total of 1121 occupied dwellings made up as shewn.

Permanent Houses	.. ..	796
Prefabricated houses	.. ..	50
Requisitioned houses (family units)		12
Converted huts (family units)	..	263
		<hr/>
		1121

The Council's permanent houses and prefabricated bungalows are sited as follows :-

<i>PARISH</i>	<i>LOCALITY</i>	<i>Traditonal</i>	<i>Prefabricated</i>
Breamore	St. George's Cottages	4	—
Burley	Campden House	2	—
	Warnes Lane	17	6
	Chapel Haye	6	—
Christchurch East	Burnt House Lane, Bransgore	16	—
	Jopps Corner, Burton	7	—
	Footners Lane, Burton	14	6
	Burton Green	4	—
	Neacroft	4	—
	Westbury Close, Bransgore	32	—
	Derritt Lane, Bransgore	—	6
	Thorneyhill	14	—
Damerham	West Park Lane	17	—
	South End	4	—
Ellingham	Blashford	4	—
Fordingbridge	The Bartons	23	—
	Lower Bartons	26	—
	St. Georges Road, and Salisbury Road	20	—
	Waverley Road	26	—
	Pennys Lane	8	13
	Jubilee Close	16	—
	Picket Close	54	—
	Tinkers Cross	2	—
	Roundhill	2	—
Hale	St. George's Cottages	14	—
Harbridge & Ibsley	Nil		
Hurn ..	Nil		
Martin	Townsend	12	—
	St. George's Cottages	12	—

<i>PARISH</i>	<i>LOCALITY</i>	<i>Traditional</i>	<i>Prefabricated</i>
Ringwood	Hurst Road	42	—
	Fairlie Park	34	—
	Fairlie Estate	3	—
	Manor Road	36	9
	Cloughs Road	8	—
	Merryweather	24	—
	Eastfield Lane	2	4
	Hightown	8	—
	Wessex Estate	92	—
	Queens Way	71	—
	Winston Way	23	—
	Moortown	10	—
	66 & 68, Christchurch Road and 55, Bickerley	3	—
Rockbourne	Mintys Hill	6	—
	Bourne Cottages	6	—
	Whipps Hill	2	—
Sopley	Avon	4	—
	Ripley	2	—
St. Leonards & St. Ives	Ashley	4	—
	Woolsbridge Road	16	—
	Glenives Close and The Close	10	6
	Old School	1	—
Whitsbury	Lower Grove	11	—
Woodgreen	Hill Close	12	—
	St. George's Cottages	6	—

The maintenance of these scattered estates entails a large amount of work and a total of 3307 visits were made during the year as follows :-

Permanent Houses	..	..	2104
Prefabricated bungalows	..	..	112
Requisitioned Houses	..	..	56
Converted huts	..	..	1001
Other Council Property	..	..	34
			<hr/>
			3307

At the end of the year the position regarding this Council's occupied family units in converted huts was as follows :-

Holmsley (Christchurch East Parish)	38
Ibsley (Harbridge & Ibsley Parish)	64
Ibsley (Ellingham Parish)	10
Hurn (Hurn Parish)	89
Hurn (Sopley Parish)	60
Godshill (Fordingbridge Parish) ..	2
Ashley (St. Leonards & St. Ives Parish)	—

The 263 family units are housed in 181 huts of seven different types of construction i.e. Thorne, Laing, Maycrete, Handcraft, Nissen, Timber and Brick (4½ in.).

During the year 57 huts were taken out of use for housing purposes and this policy continues.

Heavy and continuous rains in the autumn revealed that the fabric of some huts had deteriorated to such an extent that weather-proofing works were necessary. It was agreed to retain the Thorne Huts at Hurn (twenty) as long as possible and to obtain the Minister's consent to weatherproofing these.

Drainage schemes on estates where main sewerage is not available continue to present major problems where systems of effluent disposal by land irrigation cease to function.

It is becoming increasingly evident that with such a complex variety of subsoils with low permeability factors generally as pertain in this district, serious drainage problems will continue to arise where effluent disposal is dependant upon subsoil absorption. I have come to the conclusion that where effluents from disposal plants cannot discharge into rivers or streams substantial development by the Council is undesirable and provision should be made for the complete and frequent removal of sewage from such sites by means of cesspool exhausters. An expensive method and one not entirely devoid of nuisance.

During the year land drain irrigation systems on sewage disposal schemes ceased to function at Hill Close, Woodgreen (12 houses), Lower Grove, Whitsbury (11 houses) Warnes Lane, Burley (17 houses), Burnt House Lane, Bransgore (16 houses) and Prefab. Site, Burton (6 bungalows). Smaller drainage systems similarly ceased to work on sites at Damerham, Ashley, St. Leonards and St. Ives.

New irrigation systems were constructed where possible and structural alterations agreed in connection with the overloaded sewage disposal plants at Westbury Close and Warnes Lane.

STATUTORY ACTION.

During the year ten statutory notices were served where informal action had proved unsuccessful ; details are as follows :-

Public Health Act, 1936.

- Section 39 - three notices - unsatisfactory drainage
- Section 44 - one notice - innsufficient sanitary accommodation
- Section 45 - one notice - defective water closet
- Section 50 - one notice - defective cesspool
- Section 93 - two notices - nuisances, defective roofs

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Section 13 - one notice - sanitary conveniences
communicating with food room

Shops Act, 1950.

Section 38 - one notice - unsuitable sanitary
accommodation

CIVIL DEFENCE.

I am responsible for carrying out the duties of the Council in connection with the following :-

1. Rescue Section
2. Civil Defence (Demolition and Repair Services) Regulations, 1950
3. Civil Defence (Sewage) Regulations, 1949

CONCLUSION.

I am indebted to Miss Hilary Christy of 44, Christchurch Road, Ringwood for records of rainfall which she has supplied for many years.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Council for their confidence and support, to Dr. McNab and the staff of my department for their co-operation throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

RONALD A. UPSTONE,
Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

